

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle roof which is movable between a closed position and a storage position in a rear storage compartment of a vehicle having a rear cover (9) pivotally supported such that it can be raised at the rear end thereof from a closed position, in which it covers said storage compartment, to an open position in which the rear end of the rear cover (9) is raised and in which also the vehicle roof in said rear storage compartment can be raised to facilitate access to the rear storage compartment, and a locking structure (17) which, with the rear end (11b) of the rear cover (9) raised to the open position thereof, prevents further raising of the vehicle roof (1) beyond said raised loading position and also a closing of the rear cover (9), while the roof (1) is in the loading position.

2. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein said locking structure (17) is transferable to a locking position by the raising of the vehicle roof (1) from its storage position in said rear storage compartment.

3. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein said locking structure (17) is transferable to a release position by lowering the vehicle roof (1) to its storage position in said rear storage compartment.

4. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein said locking structure (17) include a locking pawl (18) which is firmly connected to a main support arm (6) of an operating mechanism (5) of said roof (1).

5. A vehicle roof according to claim 4, wherein in said raised locking position a tubular frame (10) supporting said rear cover (9) and said main support arm (6) are interlocked.

6. A vehicle roof according to claim 4, wherein, in said locking position, said locking pawl (18) is joined to said tubular frame (10) and to the main support arm (6) of the vehicle roof (1).

7. A vehicle roof according to claim 6, wherein said locking pawl (18) is firmly connected to said main support arm (6) of said vehicle roof (1) and in said locking position engages a locking bolt (19) mounted to said rear cover (9).

8. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein said rear cover (9) is supported so as to be pivotable about a vehicle body based pivot axis (13) disposed in front of the rear cover (9).

9. A vehicle roof according to claim 8, wherein said main support arm (6) of said vehicle roof (1) is supported on said vehicle body (console 16) by a pivot joint (7) and the vehicle body based pivot axis (13) of the rear cover 9 and the axis of said pivot joint (7) supporting said main support arm (6) are spaced from each other.

10. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein said vehicle roof (1) is a hardtop vehicle roof comprising at least two roof parts (2, 3, 4).

11. A vehicle roof according to claim 1, wherein an operating element is provided for raising said vehicle roof out of said storage position thereof to a trunk loading position and also for moving said vehicle roof between the closed position and the storage position thereof.